**ICANN’s Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights**

Summary of the main points raised during the session held at ICANN 53

Wed, June 24th

1. The meeting started with an overview of the charter of the Cross Community Working Party on ICANN and Human Rights and of the Issue Report produced by Article 19. [[1]](#footnote-1)

2. The Council of Europe mentioned the Declaration on ICANN, Human Rights and the Rule of Law[[2]](#footnote-2), recently approved by the its Committee of Ministers. The Council of Europe also provided information about the work being carried out by GAC’s working group on Human Rights and international law. GAC is currently discussing the scope of the draft terms of reference of the working group.

3. Several substantive issues were mentioned, such as Freedom of Expression, policies of DNS blocking and seizing and the rights of authors. There is also need to identify synergies between issues being discussed separately, such as measures to keep information related to domain registration secure and privacy concerns related to WHOIS.

4. There was a positive evaluation of the work being developed by the CCWP, a mechanism for the ICANN community to discuss human rights in a multistakeholder and bottom-up manner.

5. With regards to the way forward, participants acknowledged that:

* There is need to separate issues of substance and of process and to evolve in both areas;
* There is a need to map and make an inventory of the concrete policies and procedures of ICANN that impact on specific rights;
* The interplay between ICANN’s policies and rights such as freedom of expression and privacy are clearer. However, more needs to be done to understand the implication on social and economic rights;
* The development of an impact assessment tool that can be used in different working groups was suggested in order to enable a human rights impact assessment on the level of the policy development process;
* Experiences like the GNI can offer best practices and examples. It is important to understand which principles that generally apply to companies could also be applied in the context of ICANN.

6. For further information:

The audio recording of this session is available at: <http://audio.icann.org/meetings/buenosaires2015/ncsg-human-rights-24jun15-en.mp3>

The transcripts of the session are available at: <https://buenosaires53.icann.org/en/schedule/wed-ncsg-human-rights/transcript-ncsg-human-rights-24jun15-en>

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Council of Europe. ICANN’s procedures and policies in the light of Human Rights, Fundamental freedoms and democratic values. http://www.coe.int/t/informationsociety/Source/DGI\_2014\_12E%20Report%20ICANN%20and%20Human%20Rights%20updated%208%20Oct%202014.pdf

Council of Europe. Declaration on ICANN, Human Rights and the Rule of Law. https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=Decl%2803.06.2015%292

Article 19. ICANN’s corporate responsibility to protect Human Rights. February, 2015. <https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocouncilmeetings/Continuing+the+conversation+on+ICANN+and+Human+Rights>

Article 19. Issue Report for the Cross Community Working Party on ICANN’s Corporate and Social Responsibility to Respect Human Rights. June, 2015. https://www.article19.org/data/files/medialibrary/38003/ICANN\_report\_A5-for-webv2.pdf

1. Article 19. Issue Report for the Cross Community Working Party on ICANN’s Corporate and Social Responsibility to Respect Human Rights. June, 2015. https://www.article19.org/data/files/medialibrary/38003/ICANN\_report\_A5-for-webv2.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=Decl%2803.06.2015%292 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)